

COUNTY of  
CUMBERLAND  
VIRGINIA

FOUNDED • 1749

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***Planning Commission***

District 1  
Patrick Smook

District 2  
Keith Oulie, DDS

District 3  
William C. Burger, Vice Chair

District 4  
David Brown

District 5  
Roland Gilliam

At Large  
Parker Wheeler, Chair

At Large  
Irene Speas

William "Bill" Osl  
Board of Supervisors - Liaison

MINUTES OF THE  
CUMBERLAND COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION  
Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) Review  
Cumberland County Courthouse  
Cumberland, Virginia  
January 9, 2006, 7:00 P.M.

Present: Patrick Smook, District 1  
Keith Oulie, District 2  
Bill Burger, Vice-Chair, District 3  
David Brown, District 4  
Roland Gilliam, District 5  
Irene Speas, At-Large  
Parker Wheeler, Chairman, At-Large

Absent Bill Osl, Board Liaison

Also Present: Van Petty, Board of Supervisors, substitute for Bill Osl;  
Catherine Kahl, Planner/Zoning Administrator, Clerk of the Commission

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The meeting was called to order, the roll called, and a quorum established.

CIP review began with Flippen's Store information made available by Catherine Kahl, Planner/Zoning Administrator, who was reporting for Judy Ownby, County Administrator. The project's renovation budget is expected to be \$550,000 for one year. This does not include communications equipment and site work. The building is expected to house the Sheriff's Office, Probation Department, Magistrate, and meeting space for county functions. A meeting today with the architects regarding the renovation designs established that the costs were not to exceed the budgeted amount \$550,000. The county is expecting preliminary designs and budget details shortly, and will share them with the PC.

Discussion on Flippen's Store included the following

Commissioner Smook: Has purchase occurred? System is very necessary, but is this too tight a space? We need to work on grants.  
Chairman Wheeler: Has renovation grant money been pursued? Is this considered urgent or necessary?  
Van Petty: Grant money is available for the communications renovation.  
Commissioner Burger: What can Homeland Security grants provide? County has already purchased property. We need to consider the project urgent and get it done.  
Commissioner Speas: Decision has already been made since the county has purchased it.

Next, Lloyd Martin, Chief of the Cartersville Volunteer Fire Department gave a presentation on the need for a new pumper truck to replace the old tanker truck. Available trucks do not meet the current needs of the fire and rescue departments and employees. They are too expensive to repair and insure, and are difficult to drive and maintain. He stated the new truck will be easier to use and maintain, which are very important features in fighting fires and performing rescues.

This truck will be replacing a 1965 model used for both fire and rescue. He also wants to get rid of the 3 current trucks and replace with 1 pumper truck. This will hold 2500 gallons of water. There is currently no legal requirement at this time for acquiring it. The cost will be \$50,000 each year for 5 years. The department has not been able to procure grants to help with funding. It is expected to take 1-2 years to get a truck.

Questions by the Commissioners included:

1. What is the current budget of the Cartersville Fire Department?
2. How much is in the bank?
3. Why can't they get grants?

Van Petty stated that they have money and they are not suffering. Commissioner Smook stated that it is not unreasonable to know how much is in their budget and if they can write a check. It was resolved that a letter would be written to the Cartersville Volunteer Fire Department asking to review their operating budget and annual report to complete consideration of their application for funding. Commissioner Smook stated that they were a great group of volunteers. Chairman Wheeler stated he had a problem with understanding that they could not get grant funding. Commissioner Burger stated that it is tough to get fire-fighting grants. Van Petty stated that they have one year left. Commissioner Smook and Van Petty stated that the need exists to replace equipment. Commissioner Burger stated that the question is how much funding they can provide.

Sharon Eels, Cumberland County Librarian, presented the request for the library. Her request included lighting for the parking area and driveway and a sign as the most important needs of the library. The library's sign needs to be replaced with a marquis board that can be lit to display announcements to the public. Future needs included a new heat pump and water heater replacements in Year 4. Also a new automation system and upgrade (average life of the system is 5-8 years). The current system was purchased in 2004 and they are thinking ahead regarding replacement. The \$15,000 request for a sign was questioned as excessive. The light poles are the same as used at the Courthouse. The heat pump was installed in 1999 and they were told replacement would need to happen in 9 years. The cost of the lighting is expected to be \$29,000. The total cost for this year would be \$44,000 for the sign and lighting. It was expected that the heat pump would be needed in 2008 and the automated system in 2009.

Commissioner comments included:

Lighting for an area used by the public is a security concern and is necessary on the backside of the building. The library is a community center and a good sign could increase awareness and use by the public. Have they looked into other cost options? Sign is necessary, but need to consider less costly options. Have they considered different lighting schemes between the front and back of the building? The power company can put up security light poles for \$15. They can use nicer lighting in the front and cheaper utility lighting in the back. The automated system and heat pump are considered desirable in years 4 and 5.

Commissioners asked Ms. Kahl to contact both the library and the fire departments to revise their proposals and return for the January 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.

There being no other comments by the Commissioners and no further business before the Commission, a motion to adjourn to the next meeting on January 10, 2006 was made by Commissioner Burger, seconded by Commissioner Oulie, and unanimously approved.

Attested:

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Parker Wheeler, Planning Commission Chair

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Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Catherine Kahl, Clerk of the Commission

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date